In response to the Office action mailed January 14, 2005, Applicant amends the application as follows:

In the claims:

1. (Currently amended) A futon having a back platform pivotally coupled to a seat platform~~, said back platform and said seat platform having a spatial relationship defined therebetween and moving between a seating position and a bed position,~~ said futon comprising:

a futon frame having **[[a]]** first and **[[a]]** second end **[[frame]]** frames;

[[a]] first and **[[a]]** second **[[leg]]** legs disposed on said first and said second end frame; and

a force spreading mortise plate disposed between said back platform and said seat platform~~, said force spreading plate having a detent disposed thereon to enable said spatial relationship during engagement of said seat platform and said back platform to be substantially the same as said spatial relationship after movement of said seat platform and said back platform when said futon is moved between said bed position and said seating position~~; and

a cam and journal system coupled between said seat platform, said back platform and said first and second end frames to facilitate changing a relative position between said seat and back platforms by allowing relative movement between seat platform, said back platform and said first and second end frames, with said force spreading plate having a detent extending therefrom to establish an angle between said seat and back platforms that defines a seat position, during rotation of said seat and back platforms when configuring said futon from a bed position to said seat position.

2. (Previously presented) The futon as recited in claim 1 wherein said futon further includes a pair of spaced-apart and parallel cross-members, having opposed terminations, extending between said first and said second end frame, with said back platform and said seat platform lying in a common plane in said bed position so that said back platform lies against one of said pair of cross-members and said first platform lies against the remaining cross-member.

3. CANCELLED

4. CANCELLED

5. (Previously presented) The futon as recited in claim 1 further including a cam and journal system, with said cam journal system comprising a first journal used in conjunction with a first cam, a second journal used in conjunction with a second cam, and a third journal used in conjunction with a third cam.

6. (Previously presented) The futon as recited in claim 1 further including a rear cross-member and a front cross-member, having opposed terminations, extending between said first and said second end frame, with said force spreading mortise plate being disposed on said rear cross-member.

7. (Original) The futon as recited in claim 1 wherein said detent comprises a resiliently biased spring.

8. (Original) The futon as recited in claim 1 wherein said detent enables the spatial relation between said seat platform and said back platform to be variable.

9. (Previously presented) The futon as recited in claim 1 wherein said seat platform and said back platform move in an arcuate manner with respect to each other.

10. (Original) The futon as recited in claim 1 wherein said futon further includes a plurality of detents.

11. (Previously presented) The futon as recited in claim 1 further including a cam and journal system comprising a plurality of cams and journals disposed within said futon to provide a means of interchanging of said futon between said seating position and said bed position and locking said seat platform and said back platform in a desired position, with said cam and journal system being lined with a low friction surface.

12. (Previously presented) The futon as recited in claim 1 further including a cam and journal system comprising a plurality of cams and journals disposed within said futon to provide a means of interchanging of said futon between said seating position and said bed position and locking said seat platform and said back platform in a desired position, with a cam of said plurality of cams being arcuate in shape.

13. (Previously presented) The futon as recited in claim 1 further including a cam and journal system comprising a plurality of cams and journals disposed within said futon to provide a means of interchanging of said futon between said seating position and said bed position and locking said seat platform and said back platform in a desired position, with a cam of said plurality of cams comprising a throughway for ingression and egression of a journal of said plurality of journals.

14. (Previously presented) The futon as recited in claim 1 further including a rear cross-member and a front cross-member, having opposed terminations, extending between said first and said second end frame, with said force spreading mortise plate being disposed at opposite ends of said rear cross-member.

15. (Currently amended) A futon having a back platform pivotally coupled to a seat platform~~, said back platform and said seat platform having a spatial relationship defined therebetween and moving between a seating~~ to move between a seat position and a bed position, said futon comprising:

a futon frame having **[[a]]** first and **[[a]]** second end **[[frame]]** frames;

[[a]] first and **[[a]]** second pair of spaced-apart legs disposed on said first and **[[said]]** second end **[[frame]]** frames;

~~a cam and journal system comprising a plurality of cams of journals disposed within said futon to provide a means of interchanging of said futon between said seating position and said bed position and also locking said seat platform and said back platform in a desired position; and~~

a force spreading mortise plate disposed between said back platform and said seat platform, ~~said force spreading plate having a detent disposed thereon to enable said spatial relationship during engagement of said seat platform and said back platform to be substantially~~

~~the same as said spatial relationship after movement of said seat platform and said back platform when said futon is moved between said bed position and said seating position.~~ with said seat platform extending in a first plane and said back platform extending in a second plane; and

a cam and journal system coupled between said seat platform, said back platform and said first and second end frames to facilitate changing a relative position between said seat and back platforms by allowing relative movement between seat platform, said back platform and said first and second end frames, with said force spreading plate having a detent extending transversely to said first and second planes to establish an angle between said seat and back platforms to define a seat position, during rotation of said seat and back platforms when configuring said futon from a bed position to said seat position.

16. (Previously presented) The futon as recited in claim 15 wherein said futon further includes a pair of spaced-apart and parallel cross-members, having opposed terminations, extending between said first and said second end frame, with said back platform and said seat platform lying in a common plane in said bed position so that said back platform lies against one of said pair of cross-members and said first platform lies against the remaining cross-member.

17. (Previously presented) The futon as recited in claim 15 wherein said futon further includes a plurality of spaced-apart and parallel cross-members extending between said first and said second leg.

18. (Previously presented) The futon as recited in claim 15 wherein said cam and journal system comprises a first journal used in conjunction with a first cam, a second journal used in conjunction with a second cam, and a third journal used in conjunction with a third cam.

19. (Previously presented) The futon as recited in claim 15 further including a rear cross-member and a front cross-member, having opposed terminations, extending between said first and said second end frame, with said force spreading mortise plate being disposed on said rear cross-member.

20. (Original) The futon as recited in claim 15 wherein said detent comprises a resiliently biased spring.

21. (Original) The futon as recited in claim 15 wherein said detent enables the spatial relation between said seat platform and said back platform to be variable.

22. (Previously presented) The futon as recited in claim 15 wherein said seat platform and said back platform move in an arcuate manner with respect to each other.

23. (Original) The futon as recited in claim 15 wherein said futon further includes a plurality of detents.

24. (Original) The futon as recited in claim 15 wherein said cam and journal system is lined with a low friction surface.

25. CANCELLED.

26. (Previously presented) The futon as recited in claim 15 wherein a cam of said plurality of cams comprises a throughway for ingression and egression of a journal of said plurality of journals.

27. (Previously presented) The futon as recited in claim 15 further including a rear cross-member and a front cross-member, having opposed terminations, extending between said first and said second end frame, with said force spreading mortise plate being disposed at opposite ends of said rear cross-member.

28. (New) A futon having a back platform pivotally coupled to a seat platform to move between seat and bed positions, said futon comprising:

a force spreading mortise plate coupled between said back platform and said seat platform, said force spreading plate having a detent, with said seat platform extending in a first plane and said back platform extending in a second plane, with said detent extending transversely to said first and second planes to establish an angular relationship between said seat and back platforms in said seat position.

29. (New) The futon as recited in claim 28 further including first and second end frames and a cam and journal system coupled between said seat platform, said back platform and said first and second end frames to facilitate changing a relative position between said seat and back platforms by allowing relative movement between seat platform, said back platform and said first and second end frames.

30. (New) The futon as recited in claim 28 further including first and second end frames and a cam and journal system coupled between said seat platform, said back platform and said first and second end frames to facilitate changing a relative position between said seat and back platforms by allowing relative movement between seat platform, said back platform and said first and second end frames, with said detent and said cam and journal system establishing predetermined an angle between said seat and back platforms to define said seat, during rotation of said seat and back platforms from said bed position to said seat position.